GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3151
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that intestinal, infectious and parasitic diseases account for 20 percent mortality in the country, particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain Malaria and parasitic incidence in the country;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the Population Foundation of India`s report which states that 28 percent of the children who are less than five years fall prey to Diarrhoea; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) : While the infectious and parasitic diseases account for certain mortality in the country including the State of Orissa, there is, however, no specific data to indicate its ratio to the total mortality caused due to all diseases.

As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-II) 1998-99, 19.2 % of children under the age of three years suffered from diarrhoea. The Government is, however, not aware of Population Foundation of India`s report in this matter.

Malaria and parasitic diseases are linked to maintenance of environmental hygiene, sanitation, consumption of safe food and drinking water. Health is a primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for these diseases through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is implemented by the Central Government which provides technical guidance and commodity assistance to the State Governments for prevention and control of major vector borne diseases including Malaria. Under this programme, 100% central assistance is provided to the North Eastern States including Sikkim. The assistance is provided in the form of commodity and cash. In addition, 100% central assistance is also provided under Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance which was launched in the eight problematic States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. The strategies for control of Malaria include providing anti-malaria drugs for early treatment through health facilities and community volunteers and integrated vector control which includes indoor residual spray in high risk pockets of the rural areas and larvicides in urban areas, use of bednets, environmental measures, capacity building, information, education and communication.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories through various National Health Programmes and by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases. Technical support to improve the quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi. The Government has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to further strengthen the disease surveillance system in order to ensure early detection and rapid response to arrest spread of diseases.